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Statement submitted by Kimse Yok Mu, a non-governmental organization in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council

The Secretary-General has received the following statement, which is being circulated in accordance with paragraphs 30 and 31 of Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

* E/2014/1/Rev.1, annex II.

14-32605 (E) 160514

Please recycle

Statement

Ever since the international community adopted the Millennium Development Goals about 15 years ago, its continuous work towards their implementation has made a huge impact, not only on the perception of development, but also on application methods and techniques in the international development field. The introduction of the Goals has resulted in a new idea of development for all stakeholders: States, organizations and individuals. This new idea has made the old forms of temporary assistance evolve into a more advanced and interactive system of development programmes that have yielded sustainable outcomes.

During this period, Kimse Yok Mu has striven to structure and implement its humanitarian and development assistance in such a way as to maximize its humble contribution to the fulfilment of the Goals. Through direct humanitarian aid in disaster and war situations and underdeveloped regions and sustainable development programmes on vulnerable children, clean water, education, health care and capacity-building, Kimse Yok Mu has served thousands in 110 countries, working on all eight Goals.

However, through our intensive and vast experience, we have observed that security issues are one of the main challenges in developing or underdeveloped regions. Political instability and weak security structures affect all stakeholders. First, the ability of organizations to work and continue their activities in such environments decreases hugely. Second, the level of trust of the target population of the States in which they live and of the organizations that work in the area influences the success of the Goals. By working in close contact with local people, volunteers, authorities and international organizations, we try to minimize the negative effects of the security problems on our work, especially education and health projects.

Another issue is unavailability of reliable information on the populations concerned and problems of processing the information at hand. In order to achieve projects and programmes, dependable data are highly needed. In regions where people do not have identification cards or there is no State bureaucracy, implementing and monitoring activities are compromised. Besides implementation, monitoring is key to measuring the impacts of the work that an organization does. We create and use our own data in order to evaluate the results of the programmes.

Lastly, coordination and cooperation have great importance in meeting the Goals. Success shrinks when individual efforts cannot offer a combined solution to the problems faced. Organization-wide and State-wide cooperation and sharing of information reduce the risk of crises. Shared responsibility forces stakeholders to be more accountable and transparent, which improves the quality of the targeted outcomes. In order to reduce the risks, we inform all related authorities and United Nations organs and agencies, in addition to establishing cooperation with local organizations and volunteers in the field.

It is important to note that challenges help organizations and institutions to become better at what they do. As Kimse Yok Mu, we are looking forward to establishing partnerships and working closely with the relevant United Nations agencies, most notably the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs and the United Nations Development Programme, in order to overcome those challenges and reach as many in need as possible.

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Statement submitted by Legião da Boa Vontade, a non-governmental organization in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council

The Secretary-General has received the following statement, which is being circulated in accordance with paragraphs 30 and 31 of Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

* E/2014/1/Rev.1, annex II.

14-32611 (E) 190514

Please recycle

Statement

Legião da Boa Vontade advocates education as being central to the global development agenda and its interrelationship with health, gender issues, productive inclusion, sustainability and social networking.

These recommendations are the result of more than six decades of work carried out by Legião da Boa Vontade and of the debates that it promoted during the tenth Solidary Society Network Multi-stakeholder Forum, a series of events held from 20 to 29 November 2013 in Argentina, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Paraguay and Uruguay. The meetings were supported by the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the Secretariat and attended by representatives of several entities of the United Nations system (United Nations Information Centre, United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, United Nations Children's Fund and Global Compact Office).

Lines of action

In Brazil alone, from 2000 (the first year of the Millennium Development Goals) to 2013, 90 million services and benefits were provided to people living in a vulnerable or social risk situation, an investment largely made possible by the donations of individuals. Besides this, the organization also engages in advocacy on public policies by participating in councils for rights protection, a way in which civil society maintains dialogue with government administrators.

Communication has been an important part of the work of Legião da Boa Vontade since its foundation. It today uses an extensive network of radio and television stations, publications and the Internet in defence of social and environmental causes and to promote education, culture, social development and citizenship values. Having prepared hundreds of professionals who operate in the communication market with this unique vision, it is currently developing an audiovisual technical school in São Paulo, Brazil.

Education and the Goals

Commitment to high-quality education is the organization's focus. At a time when nations are defining their common priorities for education for the coming years (within the sustainable development goals), Legião da Boa Vontade argues for the need to add to the current progress indicators mechanisms that allow the assessment not only of proficiency in language and exact sciences, but also of the number of cases of intolerance, violence, unhealthy behaviour (including the consumption of both legal and illegal drugs), solidary and democratic participation, subjective well-being and adherence to sustainable habits.

Its schools receive children from 4 months of age, on a full-time basis, thus allowing their mothers to work and increase the family income. This same path is also followed by the Governments of the countries where Legião da Boa Vontade operates. They have challenged themselves to extend this benefit to the greatest possible number of children enrolled in the public school system.

Legião da Boa Vontade focuses on the poorest families, seeking to make up for the social disadvantages to which the children of such families are subject. Therefore, those assisted, and their families (generally just the mother), are

monitored by a multidisciplinary team, comprising social workers, psychologists, nutritionists and educators. The communities in which they live are included in social inclusion programmes and projects that contribute to sustainable development. To meet the demands for food, education, income, health and environment, this work is aligned with activities of public bodies, other organizations and partner professionals.

Legião da Boa Vontade has systematized its educational experience by means of the pedagogy of affection (directed at children up to 10 years of age) and the ecumenical citizen pedagogy (for children from 11 years of age). With its consolidated working methodology — the learning method through rational-emotional-intuitive research — and curricular structure that takes into account the parameters of each country, this educational line has increasingly been the object of scientific studies and training for educators in both public and private education systems in many nations.

Multi-stakeholder Forum

The tenth Solidary Society Network Multi-stakeholder Forum brought together government representatives, companies, civil society organizations, academic institutions and ordinary citizens to discuss the theme "Future paths for education: education on the post-2015 global development agenda". It took a universal approach, but one that did not fail to consider inequality and the cultural differences of each location.

Below are some of the recommendations and good practices suggested by the Forum:

(a) Link the educational process to sustainable development agendas at the local, regional, and national levels and implement policies to include young people in decision-making political processes;

(b) Prepare social responsibility plans in universities based on successful experiences and establish obligatory social or community practice in their curricula;

(c) Reformulate teaching plans and train teachers to favour greater and effective student protagonism;

(d) Set up and carry out, in basic education schools, programmes that support parents, teachers and legal guardians with regard to responsible consumption, providing them with the tools for addressing this theme with children of different ages and from different social backgrounds;

(e) Create new global indicators for assessing educational policies as far as gender equality is concerned, because, despite the advances in female education, there are still factors that generate inequality that are prejudicial to both boys and girls, the main one being discrimination against certain ethnic groups;

(f) Formulate, in countries with a history of colonization, affirmative action policies for the original languages within the educational context;

(g) Create, within the scope of the United Nations, a consultative, all-encompassing, ecumenical spirituality council, which will interact with local governments and with international organizations, and recognize spirituality as a

constitutive right of human dignity. The subject should be introduced at all educational levels and encouraged through mass communication.

Conclusion

Legião da Boa Vontade is open to cooperating with countries and organizations in expanding the activities presented herein and in replicating its social technologies. In the organization's view, the most efficient social technology is effective investment in education.

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Statement submitted by Maryknoll Sisters of St. Dominic, a non-governmental organization in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council

The Secretary-General has received the following statement, which is being circulated in accordance with paragraphs 30 and 31 of Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

* E/2014/1/Rev.1, annex II.

14-32623 (E) 160514

Please recycle

Statement

It is our hope that building peace as a prerequisite for cooperation for development will be considered a priority for the upcoming high-level segment. In his report dated 26 July 2013, entitled "A life of dignity for all: accelerating progress towards the Millennium Development Goals and advancing the United Nations development agenda beyond 2015", the Secretary-General states that in 2000 Member States made a commitment to advancing development, peace and security and human rights, yet wars continue to ravage continents.

It is lamentable that the machinery of war is destroying people's lives, bombing cities and wasting Earth's resources that could be used for development. We are saddened by the destruction of buildings, roads and bridges that has isolated communities and has barred them from receiving humanitarian aid. In many countries, landmines have isolated communities from their agricultural lands and have left them malnourished and starving. In addition, civil society organizations' efforts to reach those communities and to provide them with humanitarian aid have been hampered by incessant conflict, violence and war. In the past, four church women lost their lives while trying to help victims of violence in a war-torn country. Our lives and the lives of those with whom we work are constantly in danger. In this atmosphere of war, collaboration for development becomes a dangerous enterprise.

The absence of peace in many lands has exacerbated the situation of poverty within countries that are otherwise rich in natural resources. Cooperation for development can happen only where there is confidence, reciprocal relationships and trust among nations. This in turn creates an atmosphere of dignity and respect for both parties. The Secretary-General speaks of a life of dignity for all, which can be defined as a life that is founded upon respect for human rights and considers development to be the vehicle that promotes that dignity. In addition, the principle of justice provides stability and durability to partnerships for development by promoting cooperation and empowerment for both parties.

Holistic consideration of development cooperation must be guided by the principle of just relationships, meaning that policies that protect the dignity of the community of life as well as the integrity of the Earth need to be put in place. It is important to realize that there is no peace without justice and without peace there is no firm foundation to support cooperation for development. Therefore, political momentum must convert pledges into implementation and funding for war into funding for peace and security. This is the only way that swords will turn into ploughshares and spears into pruning hooks.

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Statement submitted by Mouvement mondial des mères international, a non-governmental organization in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council

The Secretary-General has received the following statement, which is being circulated in accordance with paragraphs 30 and 31 of Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

* E/2014/1/Rev.1, annex II.

14-32629 (E) 190514

Please recycle

Statement

In the agreed conclusions which it adopted at its fifty-eighth session, the Commission on the Status of Women recognized "that almost 15 years after the Millennium Development Goals were adopted, no country has achieved equality for women and girls, and significant levels of inequality between women and men persist" and "overall progress for women and girls across all the Millennium Development Goals remains slow and uneven, including on Goal 3 [Promote gender equality and empower women], both within and between countries, and that lack of progress on gender equality has hindered progress towards all of the Goals".

Progress on gender equality has been slow, and a reason might be that the indicators (notably indicator 3.2 — share of women in wage employment in the non-agricultural sector, and indicator 3.3 — proportion of seats held by women in national parliament), focus mainly on inequality outcome rather than the structural causes and discriminatory laws and social institutions that are at the root of and sustain gender inequality.

In particular, these indicators overlook a fundamental structural cause of gender inequality, which is motherhood and women's overwhelming responsibility for unpaid care work in homes and communities all over the world.

The Mouvement mondial des mères welcomes recent developments that show the increasing attention on unpaid care work as being a core issue for gender equality and development, and that pave the way for its introduction in the development agendas, and advancing on its recognition, reduction and redistribution, notably:

- The October 2013 report to the General Assembly of the Special Rapporteur on extreme poverty and human rights (A/68/293) that rightly frames unpaid care work as a major human rights issue and a root cause of women's specific vulnerability to poverty
- Resolution I adopted at the nineteenth International Conference of Labour Statisticians in October 2013 that expands the definition of work, to include "own-use production work comprising production of goods and services for own final use", i.e., unpaid care work in households. The resolution should pave the way for the extension of social protection and pensions benefits to unpaid caregivers, notably mothers. It will also provide a further impetus for member States to deliver country comparable data on care work, notably through time-use surveys
- The work undertaken at the Economic Commission for Europe Conference of European Statisticians to promote the use of time-use surveys to provide data on unpaid care work, and to provide guidelines and support for their implementation, as well as the work of the United Nations Statistical Division on a new International Classification of Activities for Time-Use Statistics
- The agreed conclusions of the Commission on the Status of Women at its fifty-eighth session that lists unpaid care work among the issues that the Millennium Development Goals failed to capture on Goal 3

The feminization of caring responsibilities and the disproportionate time women devote to care compared with men contributes to women's subordinate position both in economic and political lives, perpetuating gender inequality.

The issue of unpaid care work is especially important in places where in addition to cooking and cleaning, caring and nurturing, women (and children) have to fetch wood and water for domestic consumption, and/or engage in subsistence farming to feed their families.

Unpaid care work can be very time- and energy-consuming, especially in areas deprived of basic public infrastructure and services, where basically unpaid care work has to compensate for lack of infrastructure such as the provision of water and sanitation, and energy, transportation and communications services, and can become a real drudgery. The lack of proximity services in rural or remote areas, such as child- and elderly-care services, schools, health-care services and other social services, also put an extra burden of unpaid care work on women, in particular mothers of young children.

As a result, women have limited mobility and no or little time to engage in income-generating activities, not to speak of political participation. Too many women lack economic autonomy and independence, and have no choice and no control over their own lives, which in turn contribute to unequal power relationships with men at all levels. It also has a direct link with the feminization of poverty, especially in old age.

Even if they are able to do so, women's participation in paid work is not in itself empowering if they are still bearing the primary responsibility for unpaid care work at home, in effect working a "second shift" after their paid work day, and overall working more than men when the time devoted to paid and unpaid work are combined. Time poverty was among the main concerns expressed by mothers in the 2011 survey on "What matters to mothers in Europe" conducted by our organization.

At the same time, care is not only about material needs, but also responds to developmental and emotional needs. Its central importance to societal and human well-being, as well as to the formation of "human capital" provided by parents through non-formal education, emotional nurturing and transmission of values, are too often overlooked, and need to be better recognized and supported.

For the foregoing reasons, the organization calls for:

A shift in focus from development indicators that are rather outcomes of gender inequalities to indicators that reflect the structural causes of gender inequality and discriminatory laws and social institutions. These should be part of a stand-alone goal on gender equality to follow on Goal 3 in the post-2015 development agenda, and notably include:

Time measurement of unpaid care work, and its unequal distribution; such a core indicator would make this essential work visible and allow for the monitoring of its reduction (through gender-sensitive infrastructure and services development) and its redistribution between men and women, and between households and other stakeholders, primarily the State, but also the private and non-profit sectors;

Women's participation in decision-making on policies that affect their lives, notably with regard to the development of public infrastructure and services, which are key for the reduction of unpaid care work, especially in rural or remote areas of developing countries;

Engagement of countries on work-family balance policies (e.g., availability of child and elderly care, flexible work, part-time work, etc.) and on the implementation of a life-cycle approach to women's work (i.e., recognition of women's dual role as economic producer and caregiver and its evolution over the life course);

Continuation of all efforts to bring to and retain girls in schools and universities, as education is the basis for self-determination, improved health, as well as social and economic status, and a key condition for the empowerment of women; and the extension of education goals to early childhood education that benefit both children and their mothers;

More generally, a post-2015 development agenda that prioritizes long-term human well-being rather than fostering short-term gains and "economic growth", and that gives care its right place and value as an essential element for societal and human well-being.

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Statement submitted by Nurses across Borders, a non-governmental organization in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council

The Secretary-General has received the following statement, which is being circulated in accordance with paragraphs 30 and 31 of Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

* E/2014/1/Rev.1, annex II.

14-32641 (E) 190514

Please recycle

Statement

When, in 2000, the entire world committed itself to achieving the eight Millennium Development Goals, it also expected to celebrate its successes in 15 years. In less than one year from now, that magic year is supposed to signal the successes of the achievements of the eight Goals. But your guess is as good as mine as to whether we have much to celebrate in terms of successes. The basic reason is that the majority of the world population is still living in a state of denial as to the impact of climate change on human and sustainable development and refuses to draw any link between human health and climate change. The basic indicator for measuring the success of any climate change campaign is human health.

In 2010, Nurses across Borders — while initiating for the first time ever in Nigeria the involvement of health-care practitioners in the campaign against climate change — recognized the impossibility of achieving the Millennium Development Goals as a result of the effects of climate change disasters. Climate change affects the fundamental requirements for health: clean air, safe drinking water, sufficient food and secure shelter. Globally, the number of reported weather-related natural disasters has more than tripled since the 1960s. Every year, these disasters result in over 60,000 deaths, mainly in developing countries. Rising temperatures and variable levels of precipitation are likely to decrease the production of staple foods in many of the poorest regions, and by as much as 50 per cent by 2020 in some African countries. This will increase the prevalence of malnutrition and undernutrition, which currently cause 3.5 million deaths every year. Summing up these effects, here is how climate change affects each Millennium Development Goal:

- Eradication of extreme poverty and hunger: impossible owing to drought and famine
- Achievement of universal primary education: impossible as a result of flooding, increased rainfall and the occurrence of epidemics owing to climatic conditions
- Promotion of gender equality and empowerment of women: impossible, as women are the worst-affected victims of climate change effects
- Reduction in child mortality: a pipe dream, as children are more prone to health hazards owing to climate change
- Improvement of maternal health: impossible given the unequipped manpower in health-care facilities and poor living conditions owing to climate change etc.
- Combating HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases: malaria spreads more during increased rainfall, especially in Africa; mission impossible
- Ensuring environmental sustainability: far worse, as erosions are on the increase, floods are wiping out whole towns, there is deforestation etc.
- Developing a global partnership for development: this may be very difficult, as the countries that are worst hit will be at a disadvantage in negotiations

Nurses across Borders has been engaged with its partner, the Seatrust Institute (United States of America), and has collaborated with the World Health

Organization in raising the voice for health within the agenda of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and promoting the view that today health has become crucial for measuring the successes recorded in the climate change campaign and the Millennium Development Goals. A post-2015 development agenda with a more effective response is apt.

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Statement submitted by Plan International, a non-governmental organization in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council

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* E/2014/1/Rev.1, annex II.

14-32647 (E) 190514

Please recycle

Statement

The post-2015 framework should be universal, rights-based and people-centred. It must address the structural drivers of economic and social inequality and strive to achieve sustainable development for all. Building on existing international human rights standards, the new development framework should reflect the core values of the Millennium Declaration and the human rights principles of universality, non-discrimination, indivisibility, accountability and participation. The Convention on the Rights of the Child, which outlines the rights to which all children are entitled to enable them to survive and develop, is framed by the principles of non-discrimination, the best interests of the child, the right to life, survival and development, and participation. These principles should underpin the post-2015 framework and its implementation. Girls and boys, as well as young men and young women, must be supported so that they can participate actively and meaningfully in setting national-level goals and targets through participatory and consultative processes, ensuring that their rights and needs are adequately reflected. Existing mechanisms should be strengthened and new ones established to enable children and youths to monitor the implementation of the framework and to hold duty bearers accountable for its delivery.

Key recommendations

Monitoring and accountability. Girls and boys, as well as young men and young women, must be supported so that they can participate meaningfully in setting national-level goals and targets and in monitoring their achievement through genuinely participatory and consultative processes, ensuring that their rights and needs are adequately reflected.

Equality of opportunity and outcome. We call for rapid progress in universal access to high-quality essential services on the basis of equality of opportunity and in line with international human rights standards. The post-2015 framework should focus on equality of outcome, including with regard to universal birth registration, universal access to and completion of quality primary and lower-secondary education, an end to child marriage and child labour, and zero incidence of violence against children.

Data disaggregation. All quantitative and qualitative indicators and data should be disaggregated by sex, age, location, wealth quintile and disability, and used to track progress in eliminating inequalities.

Thematic recommendations

Education. A transformative quality education agenda focused on equity, equality and participation should be delivered.

Child protection. All girls and boys in all contexts should be protected from violence and be able to survive and thrive in more equal societies.

Gender equality. The persistent structural drivers of gender inequality should be addressed through a transformative, stand-alone goal on gender equality and women's and girls' empowerment and by the strategic integration of gender equality across all goals and targets.

Decent jobs for youths. Youths should be able to fulfil their right to be prepared for and to have the opportunity to engage in safe and decent work of their choosing and to make a positive contribution to society.

Resilience. All child-focused sectors in the post-2015 framework, such as education, protection and social services, must address resilience-building to ensure that development is sustained and children's well-being is prioritized.

Civil registration and vital statistics. All countries must have effective civil registration and vital statistics systems and ensure universal birth registration.

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Statement submitted by Pragya, a non-governmental organization in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council

The Secretary-General has received the following statement, which is being circulated in accordance with paragraphs 30 and 31 of Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

* E/2014/1/Rev.1, annex II.

14-32659 (E) 190514

Please recycle

Statement

Although the past nine years have shown a healthy movement towards the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals, the disappointments and gaps indicate the areas in need of attention during the post-2015 period.

Traditionally neglected and excluded groups on the social, economic and geographic margins have remained deprived of the benefits of development. Inequities have grown and the festering dissatisfaction has contributed to violence and conflicts, in turn eroding the gains made. These inequities are often perpetuated by local political structures, indicating the critical need for a rights-based approach and an inclusive agenda within nations after 2015.

It is becoming evident that in their singular focus on enhancing access to services for education, health and livelihoods, most developing countries have compromised on the quality of the services, greatly reducing the real value of those services. Quality enhancement in services therefore needs to be at the centre of the post-2015 period.

The world has encountered additional generic challenges (financial and food crises) that have had disproportionately higher effects on developing countries and disadvantaged populations. These are eroding and reversing the progress made, revealing the fragile nature of those gains and the need to strengthen basic conditions, which would help improve resilience. After 2015, Governments must target these challenges and ensure the sustainability of development gains.

National Governments in developing countries have been hamstrung by weak governance and political instability and constrained by poor basic conditions, insufficient resources and unfulfilled commitments made in the framework of development cooperation. In the future, cooperation partners should invest in supporting developing nations to improve basic conditions, address the neglected populations on the margins of society, strengthen local governments and create an environment conducive to respect for rights.

The next 12 months will require concerted efforts to be made to ensure continuity between the Millennium Development Goals and the sustainable development goals. The focus should be on establishing mechanisms that ensure that there will be no regression in the progress made and on designing policies and programmes that will ensure progress on identified gaps and emerging challenges. Development cooperation will be critical to enable national Governments to frame their post-2015 agenda with a specific focus on existing and emerging issues and neglected populations, while improving basic conditions and overall governance.

In the post-2015 period, global partnerships must prioritize fragile and conflict-prone areas and excluded and vulnerable populations in order to correct past oversights and ensure maximum development gains in the next phase. In addition, there should be a concerted effort to engage youths and women, who have the greatest potential for bringing about long-term gains at the deepest levels, and build human and institutional capacities, as this will contribute to catalysing and sustaining development. Building an information society and an effective legal framework, particularly in fragile States and States affected by political instability, would empower people, enabling them to make their voices heard and demand their

rights, and in turn increase the accountability of Governments and development mechanisms.

Development cooperation after 2015 needs to expand and propel newer relationships, in recognition of the responsibilities and potential of other development actors and institutions. We encourage the building of South-South relationships aimed at sharing and development support, public-private partnerships aimed at a responsible business sector, and Government-civil society collaborations for effective national policies and programmes. We hope that in the post-2015 period we will be able to hold on to the gains made, avoid any loss of momentum or erosion in progress made and push forward towards equitable and inclusive development.

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Statement submitted by Presbyterian Church USA, a non-governmental organization in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council

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* E/2014/1/Rev.1, annex II.

14-03866 (E) 230514

Please recycle

Statement

Poverty and hunger continue to plague our society. Although significant progress has been made through the Millennium Development Goals in decreasing the number of persons who live in extreme poverty or hunger, there is more to do.

Traditional aid programmes have failed to address the root causes of poverty and hunger around world. Without social and economic change, the wealthy will continue to grow exponentially wealthier while the poor will continue to remain marginalized.

Presbyterian Church USA recognizes the challenges that exist in ensuring access to quality education, employment, health and decision-making. We ask Governments to remove economic barriers to women's educational success and promote the equitable sharing of authority and responsibilities in family life, work and society, as well as a more equitable sharing of economic and political power.

Progress has been made on health issues, but the issue of women's access to health services remains vitally important. Presbyterian Church USA affirms the human rights of women, including their right to access comprehensive sexual and reproductive health education and services, without discrimination or violence. We recognize that violence against women and girls continues to be a challenge for the global development agenda. We continue to support the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and encourage Governments to do the same.

Presbyterian Church USA and its global, faith-based development partners have been engaged in development work for nearly two centuries. Recently, there has been an increased effort to address the underlying causes of hunger and malnutrition, the diseases of poverty and growing inequality in much of the world. Presbyterian Church USA has participated in "safe motherhood" initiatives aimed at reducing maternal and newborn mortality and morbidity. It has partnered with others to provide surgical assistance to women who have developed obstetric fistulas. Presbyterians have also worked to raise awareness and educate about HIV infection, to reduce stigma and discrimination and to provide counselling, testing and treatment. We have worked to demonstrate appropriate food production methods, such as urban intensive gardening. Presbyterians have developed safe water supplies and hygiene systems in communities, including hygiene systems to help girls stay in school.

In West Africa, Presbyterian Church USA and ecumenical partners are involved in an initiative to address poverty and hunger. The goal of the initiative is to strengthen the capacity of rural community groups to develop food production systems that make them self-reliant by providing training for facilitators. Once trained, the facilitators go back to their communities and educate community groups to effect change.

Presbyterian Church USA encourages stronger partnerships with faith-based organizations in work aimed at achieving the Millennium Development Goals and in planning for the post-2015 development agenda. It seeks a kind of globalization that reflects the values of justice, community and the sustainability of creation. Thus, we encourage Governments to support measures by the community of nations and civil society to improve international governance, manage technology for the common good, support fair exchanges in trade policy, make development assistance more effective and protect workers and vulnerable groups.